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Identical letters dated 7 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, I would like to draw to your kind attention the statement issued and distributed in the eastern part of Aleppo city on 23 October 2016 by the so-called "Supreme Military Council" of the terrorist organization Army of Conquest, disguised under the name of Nusrah Front (see annex).

In its statement, the terrorist organization announced that it would allow civilians under 14 years of age and above 55 years of age to leave the areas that it controls in the eastern part of Aleppo under the extortionate condition of paying 150,000 Syrian pounds per individual, as a "contribution to jihad", thus preventing those civilians from leaving through the six safe passages established by the Syrian and Russian armies, and taking them as human shields.

The posted statement proves again and without a doubt the fact that Army of Conquest is in full control of the eastern part of Aleppo and that all other terrorist groups that are promoted by certain States and parties as "moderate armed opposition groups" are under its leadership or control.

It is well known that the major component of Army of Conquest is terrorist leaders and fighters of Nusrah Front, who are controlling this and other terrorist groups in Aleppo, according to a clear statement made by Abu Mohammed al-Jawlani (QDi.317), the terrorist leader of Nusrah Front (see the interview of 28 May 2015 with the Qatari television channel Al-Jazeera).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls once again upon the Security Council to genuinely uphold its responsibility to combat terrorism, particularly through compelling certain Governments, including some that are members of the Security Council, to implement its relevant resolutions, namely resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), and to distance itself from double standards while implementing those same resolutions.

It is no longer acceptable that those Governments should persist in using terrorism as a tool to implement their political agendas by providing all means of support to the terrorist groups in the Syrian Arab Republic, providing them with a political and media umbrella, persisting in denying that those terrorist groups are

affiliated to Nusrah Front, as well as part of it, and presenting them as "moderate armed opposition groups" or "non-State armed groups".

Fighting terrorism seriously and effectively requires actual cooperation and coordination with the Syrian Government and its allies on the ground. Otherwise, defeating this international dangerous trend will very soon become an elusive goal.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the identical letters dated 7 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

بيان لأهلنا الصابرين في حلب

الحمد لله الذي نصر عباده بصبرهم وذل أعداء الإسلام بتقواهم والصلاة والسلام على سيدنا ونبينا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه إلى يوم الدين

وبعد

في لحظة حين تضع نفسك بثيابنا حجم المعاناة التي يكابدها أهلنا الصابرون في حلب جراء التصعيد والحصار الذي يفرضه النظام وبعض بعد التشاور مع الأخوة المجاهدين في بقية الفصائل أنها ستسمح بخروج المدنيين ممن هم دون سن الرابعة عشرة وفوق سن الخامسة والخمسين من المناطق المحاصرة تحت سيطرتها على أن يتعهد كل من يود الخروج بمبلغ مئة وخمسين ألف ليرة لدعم أخوتهم على جبهات القتال

والله يكتب لكم نصرا من الله وفتح عظيم فارجعوا إلى جنة عرضها السموات والأرض وجاهدوا إن لم يكن بأنفسكم فبأموالكم تكونوا بها طاعة الله ورحمته وبشر الصابرين

المجلس العسكري الأعلى لجيش الفتح

Translation

Statement to our patient people in Aleppo

Praise be to God, whose succour exalts His servants and whose power lays low the enemies of Islam. May praise and peace be upon our master and prophet Muhammad and his family and companions until the day of judgement.

The High Command of the Army of Conquest is fully aware of the scale of the suffering endured by our patient people in Aleppo, who are being bombarded and besieged by the regime. After consulting with fellow mujahidin in other factions, it hereby announces that it will allow civilians under the age of 14 and over the age of 55 to leave the areas under its control, provided that those who wish to leave perform an act of jihad by giving 150,000 Syrian pounds to support their brethren who are performing jihad by taking up arms.

Through God's permission, we promise you succour from God and a great victory. Strive for a paradise more vast than the heavens and the earth. Wage jihad, if not with your selves, then with your funds, that you may obey God and gain His paradise. Give thou good tidings unto those who are patient.

Supreme Military Council of the Army of Conquest